



THE TRIPOD

Trinity Episcopal Church & School

<http://trinityepiscopalmarshall.org>

<http://www.trinitymarshall.org>

Volume 18 Issue 12

December 2018

Thanksgiving Outreach

Trinity Episcopal Church's Holy Vision:

In glorifying God, we the members of Trinity Church, will foster a unified parish, demonstrate our spirituality with an open heart, and reflect in our actions the good news of the Holy Spirit to all members of our

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On Thanksgiving Day we once again hosted the Thanksgiving Outreach Ministry, and I got to say it was a success. For the 28th year we fed various members of our community who needed a Thanksgiving meal and probably would not have gotten one without this outreach. This year we had many people come out to help from the church and the surrounding community. We had so many people in fact that we finished cutting the desserts at 8:25 am, which was about 20 minutes sooner than last year. We also had many helping serve and load boxes to go. At one point during the first run the line to begin serving went out of All Saints Hall. Basically, as soon as someone dropped off their to-go box full of food they were already at the line.

We also served pretty close to our goal. At the end of the day we served 1075 individual meals, plus we sent some food to Wiley College to feed students there. This year we began something different. A few tables in All Saints Hall were decorated with table cloths, and set just like you would have at home. With plates, silverware, napkins, and cups. This was done for the people who chose to eat their meals at the church so that they could fill more at home. They even got to eat off a plate instead of out of a to-go box.

We could not have pulled this off without the help of you all. Those of you who piled cran-



berry sauce, cut desserts, served food, stood in line while the servers were filling your to-go boxes, and those who delivered; we could not have done this without you. A special thanks to all those who worked behind the scenes, and before the day to prepare everything and make sure we had all the food and supplies we needed.

Jesus tells us when we are feeding the hungry we are truly feeding him. He told St. Peter after his resurrection to "Feed my sheep". We are participating in what Jesus calls us to do, to feed. This ministry is fulfilling Jesus' call to feed. So thank you all for answering Jesus' call.



Our Mission

To proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ by:

Inviting all to accept Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.

Fostering the presence of the Holy Spirit for the equipping of saints to do the work of ministry.

Witnessing to the power of God to heal, transform, and make all things new.

Supporting those who by word and example make Christ's redemptive work known.

Bishop's Visit and Confirmation

On Sunday November 18th, we welcomed Bishop Fisher and his wife Susan at our 10:30 service. He preached a sermon I think we all needed to hear, and confirmed 2 adults. After the service we enjoyed a reception honoring the confirmands and Bishop Fisher and his wife's visit to our church. Bishop Fisher met with members of the vestry following the reception. In that meeting he affirmed the work we are doing in regards to racial reconciliation and reaching out to the community. Bishop Fisher mentioned how our work around racial reconciliation is being spoken about throughout the diocese, and people are taking notice of Trinity in Marshall. He also spoke kindly about the diverse makeup of our congregation. He also spoke highly of our choir, as they once again delivered a wonderful offertory anthem.

The two confirmands were our choir director Melissa Hammers, and a newer member Larry Garcia. They worked hard studying and preparing for this moment in their spiritual journeys.



Rector's Reflection

Dear Beloved in Christ:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and our Lord Jesus Christ. Also, a Blessed Advent and a very Merry Christmas. We all have much to be thankful for as this year draws to a close. Our thankfulness should be reflected in our worship. The greatest thing we should be thankful for is the forgiveness of our sins. In Hebrews 9:22 we read, *"Indeed, under the law almost everything is purified with blood and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins."* Christ blood was shed for us. His coming and his birth sets the stage for the fulfillment of God's plan for our redemption.

Does this shedding of blood sound harsh? If purification is to take place why must it be with blood? Why is that necessary for sins to be forgiven? Why can't God just forgive – after all He is God creator of all things. Surely, He can choose to simply forgive sins without requiring something so disagreeable as shedding blood?

It is harsh. Our culture has relativized sin to the point where there is no sin. We have become a pluralistic society without a base line of moral or ethical behavior. When someone makes a moral or ethical stand they are often chastised for being unbending, or something more heinous. We have forgotten the damage sin does not just to ourselves, our souls, but to those around us. The use of blood, that which is life, is to impress upon us that sin takes life away.

Why is the shedding of blood necessary for sins to be forgiven? Everything we do has consequences. I challenge you to name one thing, just one thing to which there is no consequences. It is rather like the law of physics, for every action there is an opposite and equal reaction. When we sin we wound someone, it may be ourselves or another person, it certainly wounds God to see his creation in rebellion against His perfect will. God can simply forgive sin; after all, God is capable of anything. But, God is first a God who loves us enough to seek justice for us. Do we teach our children consequences? Of course we do. It is often a painful experience for the parent for they do not enjoy seeing the suffering of the child they love. But they do it for the child's own good. They do it out of love. The parent does it so the child will learn to love and respect themselves and others. Why then should we not understand God doing the same thing?

We have an aversion to blood. It brings to mind violence. This is a good thing for it reminds us that sin is violence. Its commission or omission is a violent act against God, others, and ourselves. Perhaps our sins are private – it doesn't hurt anyone else (I would challenge that in the first place). But suffice to say, there is no such thing as private sin. Sin always affects our relationship with God and with others. It also impacts on our acceptance of ourselves.

Sin is costly. Blood calls to mind the cost of forgiveness. That which costs a great deal; we value. It is easy to think of this in terms of positions. It is more difficult to comprehend when we shift it to the realm of relationships. But, relationships also have a cost, the more we put into them the more we value them. No effort, no value. The value for our redemption from sin was someone's life – Jesus, God's own son. Jesus was the sacrifice that we might be cleansed of our sin. It was messy, it was horrible, it was agonizing, and it was necessary.

How will we recognize this cost? How will we seek to be washed in the blood of Christ? Will we reject it because it doesn't fit into what is comfortable for us? God made the sacrifice. We may not be comfortable with it – it may make us ill at ease. The sacrifice made once for all is now available for us to accept or reject. If we reject it, we reject life itself. For it is in the sacrifice we find life eternal.

In this month; a month that proclaims the coming of Christ and the month that He enters the world, fully God and fully man, I am thankful for so many people and blessing that God has poured out upon me and my family. But I am always most thankful for the forgiveness of my sins that has been given to me through Christ's atoning sacrifice and God's immeasurable grace. There is nothing in the world, nothing in all creation better than having that gift and cherishing it.

Pax et Bonum.

Fr. John



Our Vision:

Our vision for
Trinity Episcopal
Church

includes

Growing a
dynamic youth
program.

Reaching out to
our community
outside the walls
with the love of
Christ.

Increasing spiritual
and congrega-
tional growth for
our parish.

YOUTH NEWS

Trinity youth were able to pack 30 shoe boxes for Operation Christmas Child this year. This is our fourth year to participate in this project and we have our system down! Our boxes are packed for boys and girls the same age as our youth. In each box we pack a soccer ball and pump, clothing article (socks, t-shirt or scarf), school supplies (pens, pencils, paper), hygiene products (toothbrush, soap, washcloth), flip-flops and varies small toys. The youth pack their boxes with love and care, a note is placed in each box and the children who receive the boxes are prayed for. During our packing party, we watch a film on how the boxes are distributed throughout the world and we hear from several children how the boxes impacted their life. One of the most special features of sending the shoe boxes each is knowing that each child will have the opportunity to be involved in a 12 week discipleship program to learn about the saving grace of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The contents of each box roughly cost around \$20 along with an additional postage of \$9 for per box. This cost is off-set by donations from our church members. Shipping cost, however, is always monetary donation and this year it has totaled \$220.00. Expenses were 231.52. So in all it cost about \$450. Our donations this year were \$539, so all expenses were covered!

In the upcoming new year, I would like to have a special item featured each month for donations so that cost is off-set even more! By purchasing items in advance, we have the opportunity to buy in bulk and/or get clearance items. Watch your monthly newsletter and church bulletin for the featured item and let's keep Operation Christmas Child going all year long!



BROTHERHOOD OF ST. ANDREW

Please Note, there will be no Brotherhood of St. Andrew meeting this month. Nor will there be any bi-weekly bible studies at Jucy's. Enjoy your December, and have a Merry Christmas!



Birthdays

2	Ronnie Hammers	21	Tony Pierce
2	Selma Steidley	21	Alaina Jones
8	Jennifer Truelove	23	Patty Jager
8	Starr Minatrea	23	Leslie Rhoades
13	Bill Lewis	28	Kay Kemp
16	Lynn Johnson	29	Natasha Brown Martinez
16	Gloria Portman	29	Blair Abney
17	Griffin Jones	31	Logan Jameson-Hatch

Anniversaries

4	Mr. & Mrs. Joel Truelove
5	Mr. & Mrs. Charles Cobb
10	Mr. & Mrs. Michael Jones
19	Mr. & Mrs. Lowell Runyan
19	Mr. & Mrs. Vincent Godinich
29	Mr. & Mrs. Michael DeSa
31	Mr. & Mrs. Paul Whaley

Church Financials and Attendance for October 2018

Budget Income for 2018	\$498,837
Budget Expenses for 2018	\$557,879
Budget Difference for 2018	(\$ 59,042)
Income Received to Date	\$
Expenses to Date	\$
Income for the month	\$
Expenses for the month	\$
Difference for the month	(\$)
Difference to Date.....	(\$)

	2017	Present
Average Sunday Attendance to date	165	166

Average Sunday Attendance for October	203	185
Sunday Attendance to date	7247	7135
Attendance all other Services	7996	6151



Trinity Episcopal School Christmas Program!

Please mark your calendars for Tuesday December 4th. Our school will be putting on a Christmas program at the ETBU chapel at 6 PM. This is always a fun event to see the children of our school, and watch as they deliver a wonderful performance which they have spent a long time preparing. It is also a great way to show how our church can support our school. So come out and get into the Christmas spirit a little early.

Ministry in Review: Outreach

Each month we will review a different ministry of the church. Each one of our ministries are important parts of the life of Trinity Episcopal Church, as well as our ability to reach out to the world. This month I will focus on our outreach ministry. Outreach is an important part of our church life. It is one of the calls of Jesus that he gave to his disciples. In the Great Commission Jesus told his disciples to “Go therefore and make disciples of all the Nations” (Matthew 28:19 ESV) This call is to go, to go out into the world. To go out and make disciples, to go out and baptize, to go out and bring the good news. That is what we are called to do today, to go.

This is what outreach is, going out into the world. Go out and address the needs of the world. Go out and minister to the world. Go out and bring the good news of Jesus Christ to the world. We do outreach because Christ calls us to care for the poor, the hungry, the stranger, and that takes us going out to them. This is what our Outreach team does. They look out into our community and see where the need is, and give. Your outreach team touches many people’s lives through the generosity of this church. Outreach is a vital part to the life of the church, and our outreach team is no different.

There are many ways in which our outreach team gives back to the community on behalf of this church. One is by monthly giving to organizations who assist those in need. Our outreach team gives monthly to the following organization; 12 Way Foundation, Living Alternatives and Bridge of Compassion. They also give to the Empty Stocking Fund at the end of the year. All of this money comes from the budget of the church. This money is allotted to the outreach team by the vestry for the purpose of providing help. However, as you know the need far outweighs what we get. Usually the money we get from the budget just covers funding for these services. When there is a disaster in our region we do not have more to give from the budget. This is where the designated fund for outreach comes in. On the 4th Sunday of each month we hold a collection during both services for Outreach. This goes into the designated fund to use in case there is an unforeseen need. However, it is not only on the 4th Sunday where one can give to outreach. If you feel called to give you can anytime. Just contact the church office and let them know your gift is specifically for outreach.

Because of this churches generosity to give above the budget we have been able to assist in many different areas. When Hurricane Harvey hit we sent a check to a church in Southeast Texas whose building was damaged by the flooding. When the Hurricane hit the Carolinas we sent a check to Episcopal Relief and Development to assist in hurricane cleanup. We also were able to give money to ensure that a young man with developmental disabilities received a much beneficial horseback therapy that helped him live a better life.

On behalf of the outreach team we thank you for allowing us to take part in the Great Commission, to go out into the world. It is because of your generosity that we are able to take what we have in our church and give back to those who need it.



Father Andrew's Column



Our Core Values:

Commitment
to Jesus Christ

Authority of
Scripture

Evangelism

Relational Ministry

Worship

Servant Ministry

Sacrificial Giving

Biblical Leader-
ship

Hello Friends, greetings in the name of Jesus Christ. Let me begin by saying have a blessed Advent and a Merry Christmas. I was in the store the other day and heard a song which made me cringe a bit, then I stopped and appreciated it. The song was "It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year." I always cringe a little when I hear Christmas music around Thanksgiving, but this time was different. Because I began to think that he was right, this is the most wonderful time of the year. It is because Advent is here. Advent is a blessing to us all, and it is my favorite season of the church year. I love many things about Advent; the hymns, the liturgical colors, the advent wreath, and preparing for Christmas.



Advent is a blessing, because in a culture that is turning Christmas into a hectic time Advent forces us to slow down. It forces us to wait for Christmas, to anticipate it. Culturally the weeks leading up to Christmas has become weeks filled with stress. Trying to find last minute gifts, worrying about decorating, stressing about finances, mourning loved ones who no longer are with us; the weeks leading up to Christmas can be difficult for some. Yet Advent calls us to slow down. It calls us to step on the brakes a little, and spend time in the anticipation of the upcoming season. Advent is also a reminder of our need to slow down in any transition time.

After all Advent is a time of transition. We are transitioning in many ways. We are entering a new liturgical year, we are preparing to enter a new calendar year, the leaves are falling off the trees and the days are getting colder; there is transition in this time. However, we face many transitions in our lives. We face changes in which we must adapt, and move forward. When we are facing transitions we forget the first thing we must do. Slow down! We must be able to slow down to understand fully the transition. Too often we want to plow through the transition, to simply get to the other side. We do this because the anticipation on what is on the other side is too great. However, when we slow down we can prepare ourselves fully for the other side. After Jesus ascended to heaven the disciples waited. They did not go immediately out on the great commission, they slowed down and waited for the Holy Spirit to equip them on Pentecost. That slowing down allowed them to do the work of Kingdom building better.

As we face transitions in our lives let us remember to slow down, to wait in the transition, to not try to rush through it just to get to the other side. We can start that practice this advent. Let us slow down, and enjoy the stillness of this season, as we await the incarnation of our Lord. Let us slow down, and put aside the demands of the culture to get through this season. That way we can enjoy this transition time for what it is; a chance to prepare ourselves for the next season of our church year, a season where we can and will celebrate.

Blessings,

Fr. Andrew +

Understanding the Thirty-nine Articles of Religion

XXV. OF THE SACRAMENTS: *SACRAMENTS ordained of Christ be not only badges or tokens of Christian men's profession, but rather they be certain sure witnesses, and effectual signs of grace, and God's good will towards us, by the which he doth work invisibly in us, and doth not only quicken, but also strengthen and confirm our Faith in him.*

There are two Sacraments ordained of Christ our Lord in the Gospel, that is to say, Baptism, and the Supper of the Lord.

Those five commonly called Sacraments, that is to say, Confirmation, Penance, Orders, Matrimony, and extreme Unction, are not to be counted for Sacraments of the Gospel, being such as have grown partly of the corrupt following of the Apostles, partly are states of life allowed in the Scriptures; but yet have not like nature of Sacraments with Baptism, and the Lord's Supper, for that they have not any visible sign or ceremony ordained of God.

The Sacraments were not ordained of Christ to be gazed upon, or to be carried about, but that we should duly use them. And in such only as worthily receive the same they have a wholesome effect or operation: but they that receive them unworthily purchase to themselves damnation, as Saint Paul saith.

Sacraments are an important part of our faith. The Catechism teaches us the Sacraments are the outward visible sign of an inward invisible grace. That is to say we do not see the grace that the Sacraments impart on those who partake of them, but we do see the Sacrament itself which brings to mind the grace that God imparts through them.

There are a total of seven Sacraments. Two of the Sacraments, Baptism and Holy Eucharist were ordained by Christ himself. The first, Baptism, is commanded by Jesus at the close of St. Matthews Gospel when he commands to disciples to, “*All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,*” (Mt 28:18-19, RSV). It is lived out by Jesus when he submitted to the baptism of John the Baptist at the beginning of His earthly ministry. Baptism marks the entrance of a person into the Body of Christ.

The Holy Eucharist was instituted by Jesus at the last supper. The synoptic Gospels describe the setting, the key words; the words of institution, are “This is my Body”, “This is my Blood” were said by Jesus as he distributed the bread and the wine to His disciples. He then told them that they are to do this when ever they gather. In 1 Corinthians 11:24 St. Paul describes the early church celebrating the Holy Eucharist using the words of institution. It is through partaking of the Holy Eucharist that a person sustains their life in Christ.

There are five other Sacraments, often referred to as the “Lesser Sacraments because they were not specifically ordained by Christ. These Sacraments are; Confirmation, Penance, Holy Orders, Holy Matrimony and Unction. These five Sacraments while not mentioned by Christ were instituted by the Apostles in the early days of the Church.

In Chapter 8 of the acts of the Apostles we have the first description of Confirmation when St. Philip goes down to the city of Samaria and many come to faith in Christ. At Confirmation the sevenfold gifts of the Holy Spirit are poured out. These gifts are: Wisdom to aid us in our search for God; Understanding, to lead us to knowledge of truth; Counsel, to help us discern the right path; Spiritual Strength, to confirm us in doing right; Knowledge, to teach us the will of God: True Godliness, to help us lead good lives; and Holy Fear, to aid us in loving and obeying God as our Father. Confirmation, like Bap-

tism can only be done once in a person's life.

I once heard a priest say, "The Sacrament of Penance would not be needed if we ever faithfully kept the gift in Baptism; it is a second plank given to us by the mercy of God after shipwreck." Baptism conveys the remission of sin. However, we continue to sin after Baptism thus the need to be reconciled and absolved of our sins. Penance is the means to this reconciliation. After His resurrection when Jesus appeared in the upper room He tells His disciples "Who so ever ye sins remit, they are remitted unto them; and whose so ever sins ye retain, they are retained." (John 20:24, KJV) Thus was the church given authority to pronounce the absolution of a person's sins. St. James' Epistles also encourages one to confess and receive absolution. It must be remembered that it is not the cleric who is absolving a person of their sins, it is Christ himself, for the authority to pronounce absolution proceeds from Christ alone.

Holy Orders gives power and authority to exercise the work of the ministry in the Church of God. This authority proceeds from Jesus Christ. Christ first gave it to the Apostles, they subsequently gave it to bishops through the laying on of hands and through the bishops to priests also by the laying on of hands. Holy Orders is not a right for someone to claim, it is a Sacrament bestowed. Before Jesus chose His Apostles he spent a night in prayer only then did he select those who were to follow Him more closely. So it is with Holy Orders, there is not simply the desire a person has to be a priest, there must be an affirmation by the Holy Spirit. This is reflected in the discernment process of the Church prior to a person being selected for Holy Orders.

Holy Matrimony is a Sacrament ordained by God in the Book of Genesis and affirmed by Christ with his presence at the wedding in Cana. St. Paul in his Epistle to the Church in Ephesus described it as a "Great Mystery" and a symbol of the union between Christ and His Church. It is a bond sealed by God, which nothing but death can break.

Unction is the anointing of the sick for healing. While it may also be for the anointing of a person who is near death, its purpose is for the restoration of health and vitality. In Chapter five of St. James' Epistle we read, "*Is any among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord; ¹⁵ and the prayer of faith will save the sick man, and the Lord will raise him up; and if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven.*"

The last part of the Article has to do with how we should honor the Sacraments. First, they are to be received worthily. That is to say we are to receive them in faith that they are indeed an out pouring of God's immeasurable grace. They are not to be taken lightly for to do so imperials a person's eternal soul. Baptism without the intent to live into the Baptismal vows is receiving it fraudulently. Holy Eucharist being received as a memorial rather than as the Real Presence of Christ is denying that validity of the Sacrament. Also, Confirmation without a profession of faith has no value for the soul. Penance without amendment of life negates the benefit of absolution. Holy Order without obedience the faith and one's bishop does not build up the Body of Christ, rather it sends forth false prophets. Holy Matrimony without life long intent or things like Pre-nuptial Agreements reflects a heart not set on working through the challenges every man and women faces in this holy life. Unction without faith in the healing power of God is a vain act of hope, not faith.

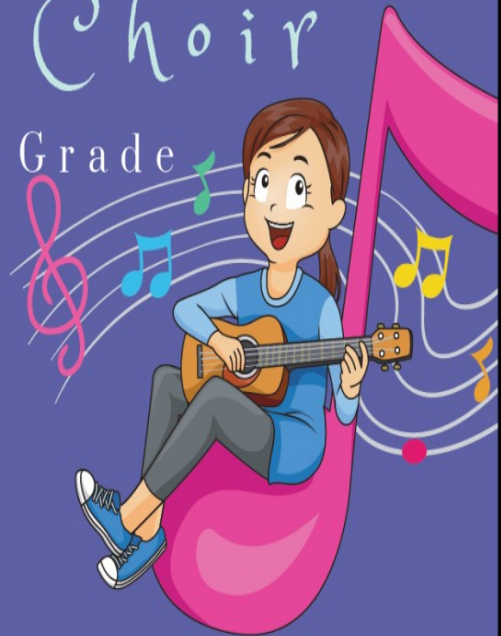
As too the Sacraments being carried about, this usually refers to the Consecrated host, does not enhance the value of the Body and Blood of Christ. The bread and the wine are to be received reverently and by faith in the presence of our Lord in the Sacrament. To parade it around and treat it like a bet has no earthly or heavenly benefit.

TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH | CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Children's Choir

Children K-5th Grade

FALL CHOIR DAYS



DECEMBER 5, 2018

DECEMBER 12, 2018

DECEMBER 19, 2018

ALL CLASS DATES

ARE ON

WEDNESDAYS

@6:15PM

CHRISTMAS PERFORMANCE
MONDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2018
5:30 PM FAMILY SERVICE



Oh come, let us sing to the Lord;
let us make a joyful noise to the
rock of our salvation!

PSALM 95:1

Merry Christmas



Trinity Episcopal Church Christmas Schedule

*Tuesday December 4th - 6 PM Trinity Episcopal School Christmas Program -
ETBU Chapel*

*Sunday, December 16th - 5 pm Service of Lessons and Carols followed by
Christmas Party - Church and All Saints Hall*

Sunday, December 23rd - 8 AM & 10:30 AM Advent

Monday, December 24th - 5:30 Christmas Eve Family Mass w/ Children's Choir

Monday, December 24th - 10:30 pm - Choral Concert

Monday, December 24th - 11:00 pm Christmas Eve Midnight Mass

Tuesday, December 25th 10:00 AM Christmas Morning Pajama Mass





*Behold, I come
among you as one
who serves.*

Luke 22:27

Parish Staff

Fr. John M. Himes, OSF
Rector

Fr. Andrew Ellison
Curate

Rae Dickson
Youth Director

Magdalena Altnau
*Children's Christian
Formation Director*

Angela Bray
Nursery Director

Jim Johnson
*Music Director
and Organist*

Melissa Hammers
Choir Director

Stacey Shaw
Parish Administrator

Suzie Ward
Administrative Assistant

Melvin Williams
Sexton

Vestry

Tony Pierce
Senior Warden

Junior Warden
Michael DeSa

Angela Bray
Clerk of the Vestry

Julie Trexler
Treasurer

Leana Westergaard

Carol Meyer

Kathleen Abraham

Jackie Weeks

Chris Altnau

Steve Lewis

Margot Lingold

Weekly Schedule

Sunday

Holy Communion - 8:00 AM

Parish Breakfast - 9:00 AM

Christian Formation for all ages - 9:30 AM

Holy Communion - 10:30 AM

After 10:30 Service
Coffee & Cookies In All Saints Hall

Wednesday

Holy Communion - 10:00 AM

Choir Practice 5:00 PM

Dinner - 5:15 PM

Contemporary Worship - 6:15 PM

Thursday

Martha's Kitchen - 6:00 PM



Trinity Episcopal Church

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